

What is claimed is:

1. A guard for precluding articles from falling into a gap between a vertical surface and an adjacent horizontal surface, wherein the vertical surface extends above the horizontal surface, the guard comprising an elongated section of material including:

a surface portion substantially defining a plane and adapted to be affixed to the vertical surface, and

a gap-covering portion extending from the plane of said surface portion in a fixed angular relationship by a distance of at least about 0.5 inch measured orthogonally from said surface portion.

2. The guard of claim 1, wherein said surface portion includes an attachment member for affixing the guard to the vertical surface of the first device.

3. The guard of claim 2, wherein the attachment member comprises an adhesive material.

4. The guard of claim 2, wherein the attachment member comprises a magnetic material.

5. The guard of claim 2, wherein the attachment member comprises a magnetic laminate running substantially the entire length of the surface portion.

6. The guard of claim 1, wherein the elongated section has a longitudinal length of about 24 to 25 inches.

7. The guard of claim 1, wherein the gap-covering portion has a longitudinal length of about 24 to 25 inches.

8. The guard of claim 1, wherein the surface portion has a height of about 1 to 2 inches.

9. The guard of claim 1, wherein the gap-covering portion comprises a material that can be easily cut by household cutting materials such as scissors or a utility knife.

10. The guard of claim 1, wherein the gap-covering portion extends away from an edge of the surface portion.

11. The guard of claim 1, wherein the gap-covering portion comprises a hollow member.

12. The guard of claim 1, wherein the gap-covering portion includes an arcuate surface.

13. The guard of claim 1, wherein the gap-covering portion comprises a partially solid member.

14. A guard for covering a gap between two devices, at least one of the devices having a magnetizable surface, the guard comprising:

a first leg including a magnetic portion;

a second leg attached to said first leg such that the guard has a substantially L-shaped configuration in cross-section.

15. The guard of claim 14, wherein the guard has a longitudinal length of about 24-25 inches.

16. The guard of claim 14, wherein the second leg has a longitudinal length of about 24-25 inches.

17. The guard of claim 14, wherein the magnetic portion of the first leg runs substantially the entire longitudinal length of the first leg.

18. The guard of claim 14, wherein the second leg extends approximately 1 to 2 inches away from said first leg.

19. The guard of claim 14, wherein the second leg comprises a material that can be easily cut by household cutting materials such as scissors or a utility knife.

20. The guard of claim 14, wherein the second leg has a thickness of about 0.125 inch.

21. A method for precluding articles from falling into a gap between a vertical surface of a first device such as a household refrigerator, cabinet, or wall and a horizontal surface of a second device such as a stovetop or countertop, wherein the vertical surface of the first device extends above the horizontal surface of the second device, the method comprising:

providing a guard including a surface portion adapted to affix to the vertical surface of the first device and a gap-covering portion extending in a fixed angular relationship from the surface portion to span the width of the gap between the first and second devices; and

attaching the guard to the first device by affixing the surface portion of the guard to the vertical surface of the first device such that the gap-covering portion of the guard spans at least a substantial portion of the gap between the first and second devices.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the attaching step includes affixing the surface portion of the guard to the vertical surface of the first device at a position above the horizontal surface of the second device.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein the attaching step includes affixing the surface portion of the guard to the vertical surface of the first device at a position below the horizontal surface of the second device.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the first device is a kitchen appliance.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein the first device is a refrigerator.

- 26. The method of claim 21, wherein the first device is a cabinet.
- 27. The method of claim 21, wherein the first device is a wall.
- 28. The method of claim 21, wherein the second device is a kitchen appliance.
- 29. The method of claim 21, wherein the second device is a countertop.
- 30. The method of claim 21, wherein the second device is a stovetop.
- 31. The method of claim 21, wherein the surface portion of the guard includes an adhesive surface portion for attaching the guard to the vertical surface of the first device.
- 32. The method of claim 21, wherein at least a portion of the vertical surface of the first device is made of a magnetizable material or covers a magnetizable material, and the surface portion of the guard includes a magnetic portion for attaching the guard to the vertical surface of the first device.

33. A method for precluding articles from falling into a gap between a vertical surface of a household refrigerator and a horizontal surface of a second device such as a stove top or countertop, the method comprising:

providing a guard including a magnetic surface portion for attaching the guard to the vertical surface of the refrigerator and a gap-covering portion extending from the surface portion to span the width of the gap between the refrigerator and the second device; and

attaching the guard to the refrigerator by contacting the magnetic surface portion of the guard with the vertical surface of the refrigerator such that the gap-covering portion of the guard spans at least a substantial portion of the gap between the refrigerator and the second device.